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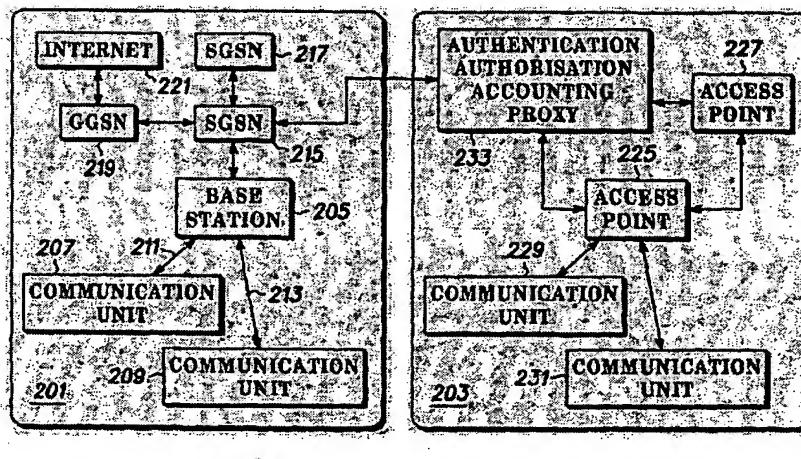
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(54) Title: A COMMUNICATION SYSTEM AND METHOD OF AUTHENTICATION THEREFOR



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a system for authenticating a GPRS communication unit (231). A communication system comprises a GPRS sub-communication system (201) and a local network (203) such as an IEEE 802.11 Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN). The GPRS communication unit (231) is a dual-mode communication unit operable to communicate on both the local network (203) and the GPRS sub-communication system (201). The GPRS communication unit (231) attaches to an access point (225) of the local network using a local network protocol. The GPRS communication unit (231) is authenticated and attached to the GPRS sub-communication system (201) by communicating GPRS authentication messages between the GPRS communication unit (231) and a GPRS authentication element (215) through the access point (225) by encapsulation of GPRS authentication messages in local network authentication messages. Hence, authentication of a dual mode communication unit on a GPRS communication system is enabled in the context of a local network authentication process.

WO 2004/051930 A1